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Philadelphia Februay the 13th 1807

Sir I think the months of May will be a good
time for the experiment, it will therefore
be well to have the Vessel ready in April

I am Sir with all respect your
most obedient and boy humble
servant Robt. Fulton

Born 1765. Penn. Died 1815.

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111. FULTON, ROBERT. A.L.s. "*Robt. Fulton.*" 7 pp., 4to, New York, Nov. 23, 1812. Retained copy, and so docketed on verso of last leaf by Fulton; with some deletions. To Benjamin H. Latrobe, one of his partners.

On the outbreak of the War of 1812 and the suspension of his government work, Latrobe entered partnership with Robert Fulton, Robert R. Livingston, and Latrobe's son-in-law Nicholas J. Roosevelt, to build boats.

This is a most interesting letter regarding the building of "the Potomac Creek Boat," cost of same, procuring subscribers for building it and costs for same; proposes he go to Pittsburg to build two Mississippi boats. Mentions Daniel French as a pirate and will prosecute him for infringing on his patent on having the wheel at the stern of a vessel instead of on sides.

"*. . . This day I have received your letter and printed proposals for the Potomac Creek boat. I think you have put her cost $5000. too low—it ought to have been for such a boat $25,000 . . . In my last I wrote you that at the expiration of 6 or 12 months from the finish of the Georgetown and Alexandria Boat I would if the subscribers wished, take her and refund them their money, if at that time they should not like to hold her . . . Propose, if agreeable, that you with Baker under you should go to Pittsburgh and build my two Mississippi boats in which I can at present as one of that company offer you $1000. a year . . . .*

"*Now as to pirates and pretenders. First French's wheel behind is a piracy on me, and when necessary I will prosecute him for it—my patent 2 years before French's, proposes a wheel or wheels behind, at the sides or in the middle between two boats. Thornton took out a patent for a wheel behind 10 days before I applied for my patent. Thanks to our patent laws, however, it is the inventor and not the patentee who is not first inventor that prevails in our Supreme court. And I can prove that in 1802 when I commenced my experiments I proposed a wheel behind in a steamboat on a canal . . . Few or none believe in torpedoes. A torpedo is only a case, water tight, powder, flint, and steel, yet it would be a sin against justice and the arts if after a man had risqued his life, spent years and blown up a ship that anyone who should find that he would ignite powder under water by compressed air should appropriate the whole invention to himself and reap the profits . . . .*"

[See illustration facing overleaf]

AN IMPORTANT LETTER BY A GREAT AMERICAN INVENTOR

112. FULTON, ROBERT. A.L.s., 2 pp., 4to, about 230 words. New York, February 25, 1813. With address leaf reading: "*John Livingston, Esq., Pittsburgh, Penna.*"; with N. Y. postmark.

A HIGHLY INTERESTING LETTER TO HIS PARTNER REQUESTING HIM TO SEEK INFORMATION REGARDING A STEAMBOAT WHICH OLIVER EVANS, AMERICA'S FIRST STEAM-ENGINE BUILDER, HAD BUILT.

"*Among the first things which you do, get exact information of what Evans is doing, what is the length, width and draught of water of the steamboat which he has made, what the diameter of the cylinder and length of stroke, how many strokes minute, what the diameter of the water wheel, what the diameter and length of the boiler and the strength of steam, and above all how fast did she go per hour on an average in still water, is the experiment considered as successful or unsuccessful? Again of his mill: how many pair of stones and what are their diameter, can the engine drive at one time; how many revolutions do the stone make in a minute, how many bushels of wheat can they all grind in 12 hours . . .*"

Over

113. FULTON, ROBERT. A.L.s., 3¼ pp. (extending onto address leaf). New York, March 22 1813. Addressed on last page: "*John Livingston, Esqr., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*"; with postmark.

AN INTERESTING LETTER CONCERNING PROGRESS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF A STEAMBOAT. Mentions Oliver Evans having failed "on one boat"; Evans was America's first steam-engine builder.

"*. . . I have made an arrangement with a bank here through one at Philadelphia for Philadelphia notes, which will be current at Pittsburgh . . . I am happy to find that Mr. Anshoots has been able to furnish you with so much good plate iron . . . You may draw on me for the amount at the dates you mention . . . The sawyers I hope have arrived, the carpenters will be with you early in April.*

Evans you say has failed in one boat; this is good proof of his want of judgement. Had he known how to construct a useful steam boat from the size of a canoe to the Parager he could not have failed. But is what state is his present essay [sic]; is the boat finished, is she decked, has she wheels and wheel guards; are they getting the machinery in her. Please to let me know these particulars, and the sum of bills and debts which Mr. Roosevelt left unpaid at Pittsburgh . . . I have read the advertisements you sent me of Mrs. Evans'. Those gentlemen certainly know nothing of patent law . . . For nothing can be more absurd than to claim to have invented or even to be the first to use high steam for steam engines; they might as well claim to have invented sleep, for high steam and its great power was known 150 years ago, and it has been applied by Mr. Watt who mentions it in his patent 30 years ago, before Mr. Evans knew enough of science to discriminate between a steam engine and an air pump . . . ."

114. GARIBALDI, GIUSEPPE. A.L.s. (in Italian), 1 p., 4to, Turin, Jan. 1, 1860. To, translated, My Dear Teresa. Tear across leaf. With English translation.

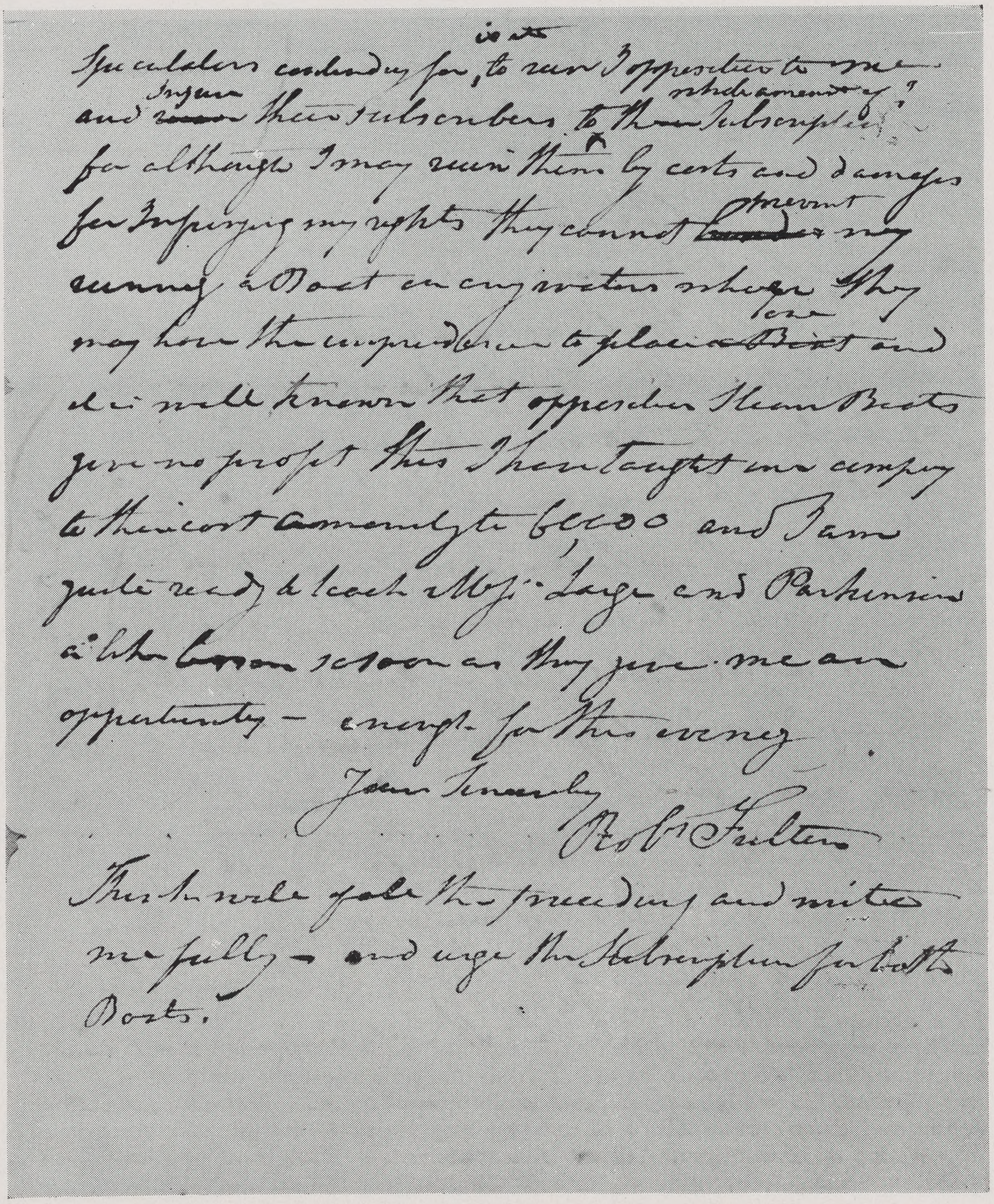
To Teresa Deidery, mentioning pheasants that are being sent to her by an unnamed Countess; sends kisses to her and her parents.

115. GARRISON, WILLIAM L., Leader of Abolition movement. A.L.s., 4 pp., 4to, Boston, July 31, 1832. To an unnamed correspondent. Break across the second leaf, and break in center fold.

AN EXTREMELY INTERESTING LETTER DESCRIBING THE GOALS OF THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT, AND PERSECUTION SUFFERED IN THE CAUSE OF ANTI-SLAVERY.

"*You have, I perceive suffered much persecution in the cause of Anti-Slavery. Experience of like persecution has learnt me to sympathize with you. I have been incarcerated forty-nine days in a southern prison for denouncing those who are engaged in domestic slave trade, but my life is in constant jeopardy.*

"*Let our stand be Immediate Abolition. By this we conquer and by nothing else. To talk of mitigation as a substitute for abolition or of a gradual emancipation of the slaves is a horrible delusion. We can accomplish nothing in this manner. We might as well attempt to build the fabric of freedom upon the sea. Liberty now, liberty forever, must be our only motto . . .*



[NUMBER 111]

116. GATES, HORATIO, General in American Revolution. A.L.s., 1 p., 4to, January 5, 1803. To Walter Rutherfurd. With integral address leaf. Mounted down on a leaf from an album. (*N. Y. Collector*)

Written from his "Rose Hill Farm" a place which today would be bounded by Twenty-third and Thirtieth Streets and Second and Fourth Avenue. He invites Rutherfurd to visit him at Rose Hill, and writes "*To divert the mellancholly of the present moment permit me to beseech you to come to me for a week. Here my Mary & I will exert all our possibles to obliviate the bitterness of what all flesh is subject to . . .*"

117. GATES, HORATIO, General in the American Revolution. A.L.s., 3 pp., 4to, "*Rose Hill, 25th Septem.* 1803." Addressed on the four page: "*Walter Rutherfurd, Esq., Trenton, West Jersey*"; with postmark. (*N. Y. Collector*)

A LENGTHY AND INTERESTING LETTER. DWELLS AT LENGTH ON NAPOLEON'S CONTEMPLATED LANDING IN ENGLAND. ALSO GIVES NEWS ABOUT HIMSELF AND FRIENDS.

Walter Rutherfurd (sixth son of Sir John Rutherfurd) was an officer of the Royal Scots, and was a Major and Judge Advocate in the British Army on this continent in the French and Indian War; acquired a grant of 5,000 acres in New Jersey, married the great-granddaughter of the Earl of Stirling, and after the Revolution resided in New York City, and was founder of the Society Library.

At the time of writing this letter General Gates was in retirement at his estate known as "Rose Hill Farm" a place which today would be bounded by Twenty-third and Thirtieth Streets and Second and Fourth Avenues.

In this letter he mentions General John G. Simcoe, Sir John Moore, Lord Cathcart, John Wilkes (first treasurer of the N. Y. Historical Society, and President of the Bank of New York), and others. He writes:

"*. . . I join with you strongly in the union that the wonderful Bonaparte will attempt the invasion of England . . . The alarm is very great in England, where the Bishops have composed a prayer that is daily read in the churches to implore the Almighty to deliver them from the impending invasion; did you or I ever expect to live to see the day when Great Britain should be so prayed for? I have conversed with Charles Wiles who is open and communicate. He says that General Simcoe has given as his opinion that if the enemy made good a landing and gained battle that London should not only be evacuated but immediately burnt! I know Simcoe's character well; he is a very brave man and a man of deep reading and information . . . I confess his opinion staggers me! I have asked Mr. Wilkes whom they intend to entrust with the defence of the Nation and his answer filled me with amazement . . .*

"It also looks cloudy in the north of Europe and should those powers joining with France and Prussia be tempted to risk their fortune with Bonaparte your country will also be invaded . . . The late attempt in Ireland seems to be premature and, having failed, in the execution tends only to strengthen the powers of government. The English newspapers, and I have seen some very late ones are filled with pieces apparently wrote by authority of members of government and calculated to inspire a belief that the invasion is quite practicable notwithstanding all the Fleet can do to oppose it is as long as dark nights, storms and fogs may make the men-of-war useless . . . Do you know Lord Cathcart? He has framed a plan for a field fortification to enclose or rather encircle London; this so far differs from burning it. I think Lord Cathcart married Mrs Elliot's daughter and is by that your relation. . . .

I have heard yesterday of Colonel Turnbull, who with his lady, are at Far Rockaway . . . I have invited them here but do not expect they will move from Rockaway until the epidemic subsides . . . ."

DSI

Fulton Robert

1765 - 1815

L. a. s. 1 p. 8° obl. Philadelphia 18. II. 1807